Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) - *What are SCC and How are they Determined?*

Updated 10/302016

SPECIES INITIALLY RECOMMENDED BY THE FOREST FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE REGIONAL FORESTER*

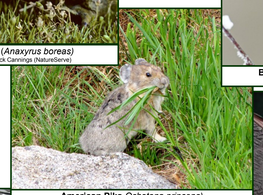
**This in not a final list and is subject to change.*

Taxa	Scientific Name	Common Name	MLNF Initial Recommendation to the Regional Forester (6/03/2016)	MLNF Current Recommendation to the Regional Forester (10/30/2016)
Amphibian	*Anaxyrus boreas*	Boreal Toad	Yes	Yes
Bird	*Leucosticte atrata*	Black Rosy-finch	Yes	Yes
Bird	*Centrocercus urophasianus*	Greater-sage Grouse	Yes	Yes
Bird	*Falco peregrinus*	Peregrine Falcon	Yes	No**
Fish	*Lepidomeda aliciae*	Southern Leatherside Chub	Yes	Yes
Fish	*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	Yes	Yes
Fish	*Oncorhynchus clarkii utah*	Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	Yes	Yes
Fish	*Catostomus discobolus*	Bluehead Sucker	No	Yes*
Insect	*Sweltsa cristata*	Utah Sallfly (*Not Pictured*)	Yes	Yes
Mammal	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Yes	Yes
Mammal	*Myotis thysanodes*	Fringed Myotis	Yes	Yes
Mammal	*Ochotona princeps*	American Pika	No	Yes*
Plant	*Astragalus iselyi*	Isely's milkvetch	No	Yes*
Plant	*Erigeron mancus*	La Sal Daisy	Yes	Yes
Plant	*Oreoxis bakeri*	Baker's Oreoxis	Yes	Yes
Plant	*Senecio fremontii var. inexpectatus*	La Sal Mountain's Groundsel	No	Yes*

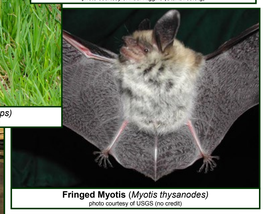
**This species added to the Forest's referred list in October 2016.*
***This species was removed from the Forest's referred list in October 2016.*

Boreal Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*)
photo courtesy of Dick Cannings (NaturalServe)

Black Rosy-finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)
photo courtesy of Paul Higgins (UtahBirds.org)



American Pika *Ochotona princeps)*
photo courtesy of Chris Kennedy (USFWS))



Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes)*
photo courtesy of USGS (no credit)

Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus)*
photo courtesy of Steve Stoner (USGS)

La Sal Mountain Groundsel (*Senecio fremontii V. inexpectus)*
photo courtesy of Gary A Monroe, USDA

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii utah)*
photo courtesy of Steve Stoner (USGS)

Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus)*
photo courtesy of Brett Billings (USFWS Digital Library)

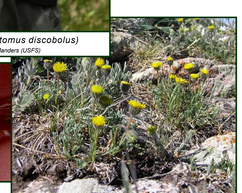
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii)*
photo courtesy of BLM (no credit)

Isley's Milkvetch (*Astragalus isleyi*)
photo courtesy of Duane Atwood (USFS)

Baker's Oreoxis (*Oreoxis bakeri*)
photo courtesy of Barb Smith (USFS)

Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus)*
photo courtesy of Pam Manders (USFS)

Southern Leatherside Chub (*Lepidomeda aliciae)*
photo courtesy of Esther J Stokes (USGS)



La Sal Daisy (*Erigeron mancus)*
photo courtesy of Barb Smith (USFS)

WHAT ARE SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN?

SCC are defined in the 2012 Planning Rule as: A species "*... other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area.*" [36 CFR 219.9(c)]

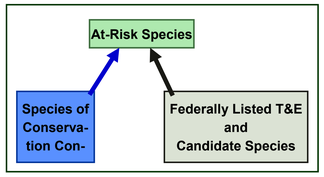
HOW ARE SCC DIFFERENT FROM FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED (T&E) SPECIES?

Federally listed Endangered species, as defined by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, are species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A federally listed Threatened species is defined in the ESA as a species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The ESA also defines a third, Candidate species category. A Candidate species is a species that is being considered for official listing as a federally threatened or endangered species.

Per the 2012 Planning Rule, SCC species cannot be a T&E or candidate species. This is because the purpose of identifying SCC species is to ensure that species not become Threatened or Endangered due to Forest Service actions.

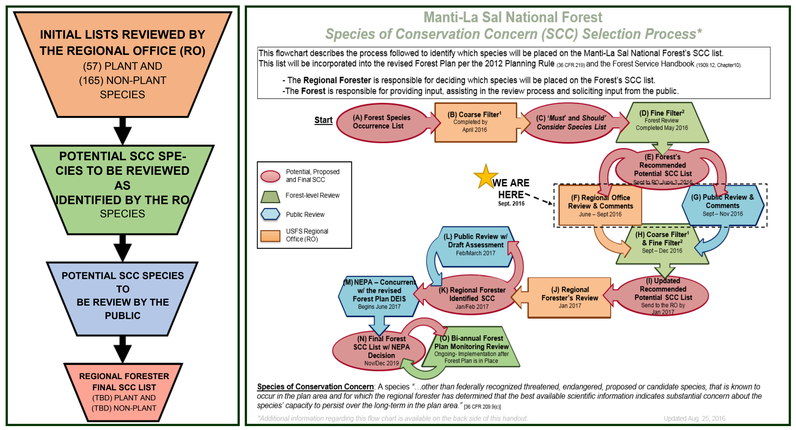
WHAT ARE 'AT-RISK SPECIES' & HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT FROM SCC & FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED & CANDIDATE SPECIES?

At-risk species are defined in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 10 (2015) as a term used to refer to SCC, federally listed T&E, and federal Candidate species collectively.



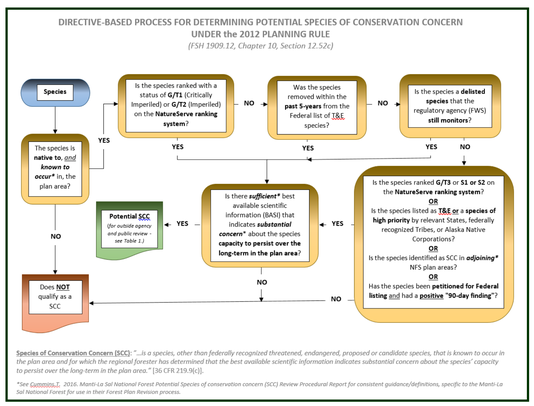
WHO MAKES THE FINAL DECISION FOR A FOREST'S SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN?

Per the 2012 Planning Rule [36 CFR 219.7(c)(3)] , "*The regional forester shall identify the species of conservation concern for the plan area…*" The flowchart below is available as a handout.



WHAT PROCESS IS FOLLOWED TO DETERMINE WHAT SPECIES ARE IDENTIFIED AS SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN?

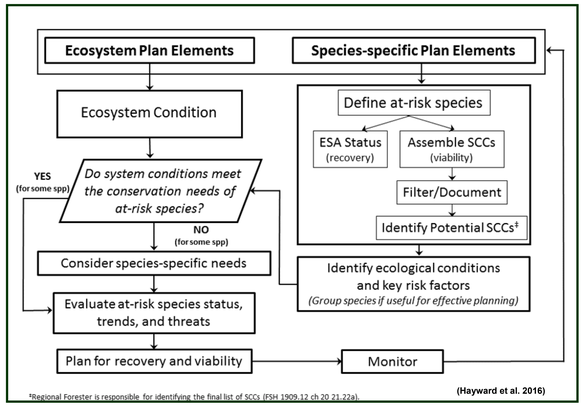
An overview of the process used to identify potential SCC is outlined below. The flowchart is available as a handout.



HOW DO SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN INTEGRATE INTO THE FOREST PLAN REVISION PROCESS?

SCC are integrated into 4-key sections of the Forest Plan Revision Process:

1) **The Assessment**— At-risk Species (SCC and Federally Listed T&E and Candidate species) are identified in the 2012 Planning Rule[36 CFR 219.6(b)(5)] as one of the required Assessment topics.
2) **Plan Development**— The 2012 Planning Rule[36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)] requires that plan components are developed to ensure that the ecological conditions are managed to ensure viable populations of SCC species. The flowchart below provides additional clarification of this interrelationship between SCC and Plan components.
3) **NEPA—** The SCC will be incorporated into the draft Revised Forest Plan and will go through the NEPA process concurrently with the Revised Forest Plan DEIS.
4) **Implementation and Monitoring—**The SCC list is a 'living' document that will be reviewed, and when needed updated, as a part of the on-going Forest Monitoring Program developed within the Revised Forest Plan.



How Does the 2012 Planning Rule's Guidance on Species Conservation Differ from the 1982 Planning Rule *

**This is the planning rule the Manti'-La Sal NF's current Forest Plan was created under*

Issue	2012 Rule and Directives	1982 Rule and Directives
Taxa addressed for viability	Native taxa screened to identify Species of Conservation Concern (SCC).	All existing native and desired non-native plants, fish, and wildlife species (see Departmental Regulation 9500-4).
Plant and animal diversity	Complementary ecosystem and species-specific approaches to maintain the diversity of plant and animal communities and the persistence of native species in the plan area.	Provide for diversity of plant and animal communities and tree species consistent with the overall multiple-use objectives of the planning area (219.26 but also see 219.27(g) for another reference).
Species viability and conservation guidance	Plan components provide the ecological conditions necessary to: contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern within the plan area (if within the authority of the Forest Service and within the inherent capability of the plan area).	In order to ensure that viable populations will be maintained, habitat must be provided to support, at least, a minimum number of reproductive individuals and that habitat must be well distributed so that those individuals can interact with others in the planning area.
Viability and species conservation framework	Explicit integration of ecosystem and species approaches: Ecosystem Diversity Plan components provide the ecological conditions to maintain the diversity of plant and animal communities Species Diversity Plan components provide ecological conditions for at-risk species.	Built on an approach combining outcomes of: a) contributing to recovery of threatened and endangered species, b) evaluating taxa as Sensitive Species and managing habitat for viability of those taxa, c) managing the ecosystem to meet goals and objectives associated with Management Indicator Species (MIS) and d) identifying species of local interest for additional at-risk species.
Representative species for analysis	Focal Species [***Note**: Focal Species are not directly associated with species conservation and are only employed in monitoring. See Box C*] Species selected to monitor status of ecological integrity Provide meaningful information regarding plan effectiveness in maintaining or restoring the ecological conditions to maintain the diversity of plant and animal communities in the plan area. Selected on the basis of their functional role in ecosystems.	Management Indicator Species [***Note**: only one of five categories of MIS acted as surrogates intended to represent multiple species*] Develop objectives for the subset of MIS specifically identified as surrogates Estimate effects of each alternative on certain fish and wildlife populations (MIS)
Monitoring	Monitor a select set of ecological conditions that: Include key characteristics of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems Indicate the degree to which land management is contributing to recovery of T&E species, conserving proposed and candidate species, and maintaining the viability of SCC.	Population trends of MIS will be monitored and relationships to habitat changes inferred. No specific requirements for monitoring at-risk species **(Hayward et al. 2016)**

LITERATURE CITED

Cummins, T. 2016. Manti-La Sal National Forest Potential Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) Review Procedural Report. Unpublished paper, USDA Forest Service.

Hayward, G.D., C.H. Flather, M.M. Rowland, R. Terney, K. Mellen-McLean, K.D. Malcolm, C. McCarthy, and D.A. Boyce. 2016. Applying the 2012 Planning Rule to conserve species: a practitioner's reference. Unpublished paper, USDA Forest Service, Washington D.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (DOA), Forest Service. 2012. The 2012 Planning Rule. Rule. Federal Register 36:219 (April 9, 2012).